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Garrard County, Kentucky awarded $21,165 Economic Development Grant
Funding provides one year technical training program for Garrard County businesses

GARRARD COUNTY, KY (Tuesday, 10 August 2010): Garrard County Economic Development Director Nathan Mick and The Center for Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Technology (CEDET) at Eastern Kentucky University announce a $21,165 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to provide technical assistance training specifically in Garrard County.

The purpose of the technical training program for emerging and existing private enterprises is to build sustainable businesses in Garrard County by focusing on the following areas: team building, marketing tactics to increase sales, accounting fundamentals, and expansion. By focusing the technical training on the above areas of business growth and sustainability, this unique training program will become a model for other counties that seek to grow their job base, strengthen their business climate, and encourage entrepreneurship.

"Rural Development's Rural Business Grant program provides funding for rural projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses," said Tom Fern, State Director for Rural Development in Kentucky. "I appreciate the opportunity to work with the economic development officials in Garrard County and at Eastern Kentucky University who are working hard to implement this training program for emerging and existing private enterprises to create economic growth and sustainability," Fern added.
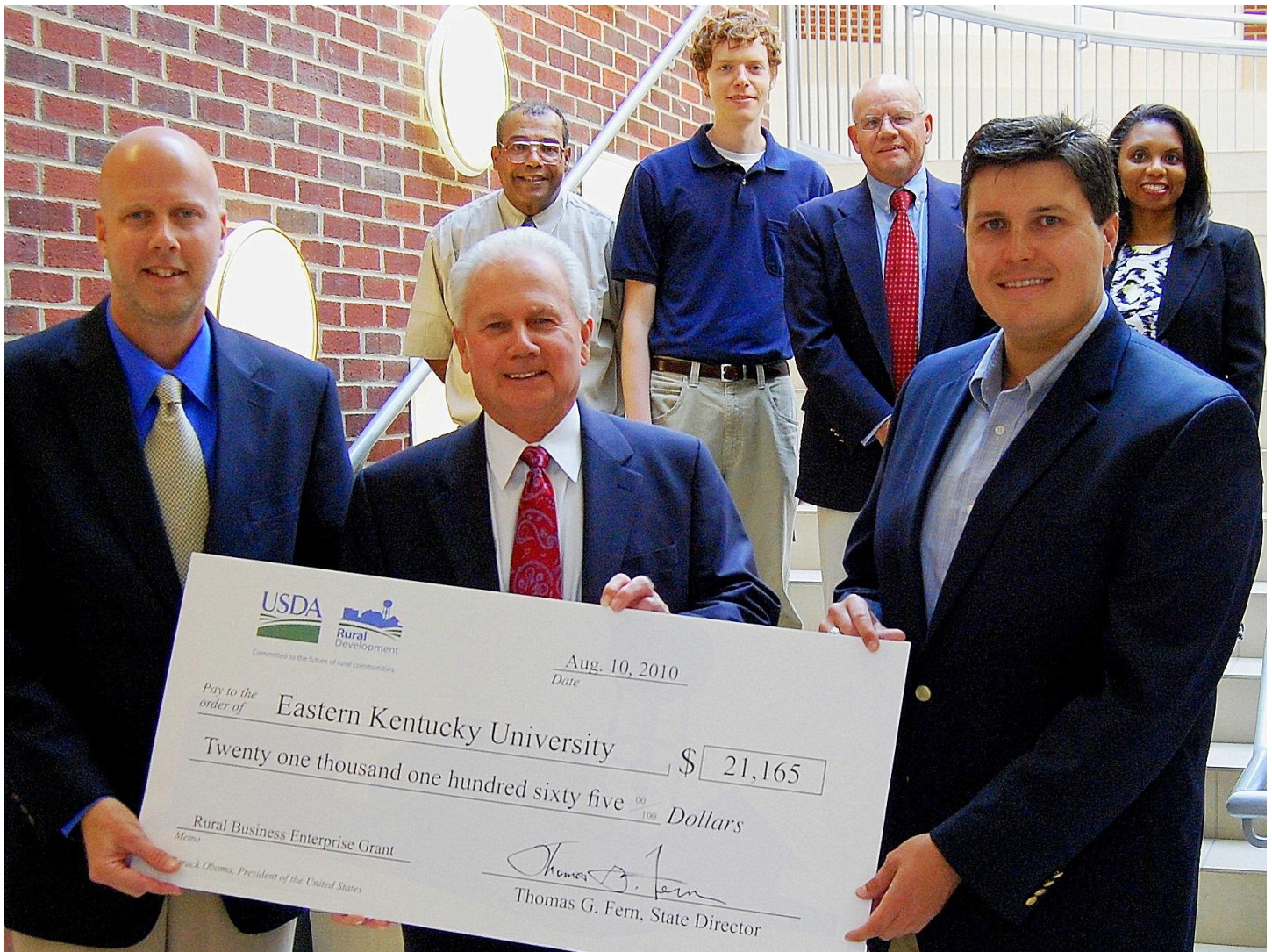
Kristel Smith, Director for Entrepreneurial Services for CEDET, will partner with Garrard County Economic Development Director Nathan Mick, the Garrard County Chamber of Commerce, local officials and businesses to develop the program in Garrard County. Kristel Smith is a graduate of the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute, holds an MBA from the University of Kentucky, and also serves as Director for Entrepreneurial Services for the Eastern Region Innovation and Commercialization Center which serves 46 counties in Eastern Kentucky.

Garrard County Economic Development Director Nathan Mick said, "New businesses in Garrard County like Mine Shields and Marksbury Farm, expanding businesses like Allison Abrasives and all existing businesses in Garrard County will be eligible to use this Rural Development grant funding to improve business. "This is a great opportunity for Garrard County businesses to leverage training and technical assistance funding through this USDA grant to help maximize their business efficiency. I look forward to working with Kristel Smith, Ian Mooers, CEDET, Rural Development, the Garrard County Chamber of Commerce and Garrard County businesses to continue to help move our community forward."

The technical training program will operate over a one year period and participants will develop a plan of action for each of the four components of the program to identify the number of jobs created or saved as a result of the training. Participation is open to businesses that are operating in Garrard County, or plan to open operations in the county.

For more information, please contact Nathan Mick at 859-339-1414/Nathan.Mick@Gmail.com or Kristel Smith at 859-622-8571/kristel.smith@eku.edu.

Pictured are: (Front row from left to right) Ian Mooers, Executive Director, Center for Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Technology (CEDET) at Eastern Kentucky University; Tom Fern, State Director for Rural Development ; and Nathan Mick, Garrard County Economic Development Director (Back row from left to right) Ernest Scruggs, Rural Development Loan Specialist; Alexander Clark, Garrard County Economic Development Office summer intern; Gene Floyd, Rural Development Area Director; and Kristel Smith, Director, Entrepreneur Services--Eastern Region Innovation & Commercialization Center at Eastern Kentucky University.

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